



EAGC QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

For the Period of:	January to March 2013				
Name of the Grantee Organization:	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)				
Project Title:	Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Regional Structured Grain Trading System through Integrated Regional Market Information Systems, Policy and Reduced Barriers to Trade.				
Grant Agreement Number:	EAG-STA-012-029	Project Startup Date:	Nov.2012	Project end date:	June.2013
Project Location:	Countries: Kenya, Uganda , Tanzania , Rwanda and Burundi				

1. Introduction

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of January 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-COMPETE funding support. The Grant which was signed on 20th November 2012 is aimed at building the capacity of grain stakeholders to participate in structured grain trade in the region while working towards attaining the following specific objectives:

- a) Facilitate institutional strengthening to enable EAGC to deliver services to its stakeholders across the region
- b) Build the capacities of grain warehouse keepers and graders to improving the efficiency of grain handling and marketing operations.
- c) Support the implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards at national levels
- d) Build sustainability of RATIN by engaging with other MIS service providers
- e) Maintain the development of the regional Food Balance Sheet

2. Summary of Accomplished Activities in Quarter 1, 2013

- Conducted membership recruitment drives leading to signing up of 4 new members. The new members recruited are: Sygenta- Kenya, Kilombero Plantations Ltd-Tanzania, Otech SAS-Kenya and BRITEN of Tanzania. This brings s to a total of 117 EAGC members.
- Developed the membership development tracker showing new, active and dormant members.
- Engaged 15 authors to revised 8 chapters of the STS handbook (2nd Edition). The book edited and final corrections made. The final version of the handbook is expected to be completed, printed and distributed by end of April 2013.
- Conducted 2 training workshops in Tanzania and Uganda on warehouse operations where 55

operators were trained. The trainings which took place on 12th-15th February 2013 in Dar es Salaam Tanzania and 19th-22nd February 2013 in Jinja, Uganda, focused on both tutorial and practical applications of proper grain warehousing techniques was ideal as it imparted skills and knowledge of basic facets of grain warehouse operations that would lessen storage losses. Important topics such as grading, grain quality management, grain commodity care, inventory management, Food Safety Systems, Risk Management among others were thoroughly covered.

- COMPETE and EAGC developed a simplified storage book to guide small operators through the best practices in grain storage. The book provides practical advice in an easily digestible format on how to improve quality, reduce losses and support aggregation that will help small-holder operators compete in regional markets, earning higher prices for their grain. The guide book was tested with trainees during the warehouse operations workshop in Dar es Salaam.
- Reviewed some of the developed communication materials for the EAC staple food standards developed by COMPETE. The harmonized Rice Standards templates were tested during the warehouse operations workshop in Jinja Uganda and comments collated and submitted to COMPETE.
- Maintained the Regional Food Balance Sheet –meetings held, FBS tracker, consultations with private sector to contribute data. Four (4) national FBS were held in the 1st quarter 2013 as shown below :

Country	Date	Venue	Participants
Rwanda	16 th January 2013	Diplomat Hotel	12 pax
Tanzania	28 th February	Blue Pearl Hotel	20 pax
Uganda	15 th March	Fairway Hotel	16pax
Burundi	8 th February 2013	Source Du Nil	20pax

- Rolled out the Real-Time Volume Tracking (RTVT) systems in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. So far 14 warehouses have been trained and system installed as at end of March 2013. They were also issued with smart phones to transmit data. Four (4) additional warehouses will be installed in Uganda in the month of April. The number of warehouses operating RTVT to date is more than the 12 warehouses targeted in the grant.
- Operationalized SMS facilities in Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. The RATIN SMS was activated in the three countries and the facility receives between 20 – 30 SMS queries per day and the trend is on the rise.
- Recruitment of 6 additional market monitors to cover six more markets; Mombasa and Kisumu-Kenya, Mwanza and Iringa-Tanzania, Kasese-Uganda and Ruhengeri- Rwanda. The monitors were eventually trained and equipped with the Smartphone and they started working immediately and have been sending data consistently.
- Maintenance of RATIN through regular updates and data uploads. In the first quarter of 2013, total users of RATIN reached 22,569- (Jan-3,574, Feb-8,753, March 10,242)

3. Major outcomes/impacts of the activities undertaken so far:

The above activities contributed to the following outcomes:

- a) Increased EAGC membership
- b) Level of awareness on warehouse operations increased
- c) Demand for more structured STS trainings leading to scheduling of fumigation trainings in Tanzania
- d) Increased resources for EAGI following development of simplified storage guide and revision of the 2nd edition STS handbook.
- e) Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) developed and maintained
- f) Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System rolled out.
- g) Capability of EAGC to collect and analyze Market Information improved

4. Other Non-Grant activities completed

- i) The EAGC South Sudan Chapter was launched on Wednesday 30th January 2013, at the Grand Regency Hotel in Juba. The EAGC Chapter in South Sudan was launched through the initiative of EAGC secretariat, Private Sector and GIZ South Sudan with the support from the Government of S.Sudan through the Ministry of Agriculture, and Forestry and it's expected to address challenges relating to availability and access to grain as well as structured trading of grain commodities in the country. The Launch was graced by His Excellency, The Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan, Dr. Riek, Machar Teny Dhorgon. The event was also powerfully graced by the presence of four Cabinet Ministers including The Minister for Agriculture Dr. Betty Achan Ogwaro, Minister for Cooperatives, Minister for Agriculture, Central Equatorial among other distinguished dignitaries.
- ii) EAGC hosted a study tour of representatives from the West Africa Grain Network (WAGN). The purpose of the study tour was learn and interact more with the EAGC in order to better understand its organizational, functional and strategic characteristics and implementation in Eastern Africa, and therefore enhance the creation process of the West Africa Grain Network. The team comprised of representatives from Premium Foods-Ghana, Inter-professional Committee-Burkina Faso, Federation of Agricultural Producers-Benin, Association of Local Cereal Processors-Senegal and USAID/ATP, Rice value chain leader.
- iii) EAGC participated in various forums including:
 - AGMEMOD Regional Price Forecasting Model Training held at Safari Park Hotel, in Nairobi. The main aim of the Workshop, whose title was Roadmap for integrating African countries agricultural markets into the AGMEMOD model, was to introduce the Project partners to the AGMEMOD model so that could be able aware of how the models works and the various data needs for the model to be able to work effectively.
 - Post Harvest Losses workshop on February 6th, 2013 organized by AGRA to validate a study on post-harvest losses along the value chain, specifically targeting focus crops i.e. maize, rice, cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum/millet and grain legumes (cowpeas, soybeans, groundnuts, beans) done in 11 countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria and Mali.
 - Policy Roundtable Meeting on Challenges facing Smallholder Farmers in Kenya organized by CUTS-Africa Resource Centre on 28th February, 2013 at Nairobi Safari Club.

- ASARECA workshop on Price Trends in Food project review in Kigali, Rwanda. The main objectives of the Price Trends analysis were to enhance the collection, standardization and use of regional databases for food and input prices in Eastern Africa and in return strengthen the use of forecasting frameworks for price changes in Eastern Africa.
- ACTESA Workshop aimed at developing its Charter that would provide the guidelines and framework for its operations. EAGC was selected as a commodity group in the region, to provide thought leadership and direction to private sector and stakeholder's engagement in eastern and southern Africa region.
- The AFRACA workshop on Functional models for agricultural value chains financing held on 17th – 19th march 2013 in Niamey, Niger. EAGC presented its experiences on its Warehouse Receipt Financing.
- EAGC participation in the Africa Food and Agriculture Policy Platform (AFAPP) and Policy analysis and Knowledge system (PAKS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26th - 29th March 2013. The meeting was part of the CAADP Continental Meeting to mark the 10th Anniversary of the framework. EAGC represented the private sector on issues of Market Information Analysis and knowledge management to support in regional trade and regional Policy processes. EAGC will continue to be a key organization that will provide thought leadership on the private sector engagement in policy development in the region and also advisory under the CAADP framework.
- EAGC in partnership with CTA and ACTESA organized the Southern Africa Grain Stakeholders Workshop in Lusaka on 18th and 19th March 2013. During the meeting, a report on the status of the Grain Sector in the Southern Africa region was validated and created avenue for joint regional policy dialogue and engagement. In the same forum, EAGC launched the newly published manual on Harmonized Cross Border Trade monitoring. Participants also considered and appreciated the regional food balance sheet for Southern Africa in providing evidence for sound policy advocacy.

5. Activities planned for the next month (April 2013):

- i) Producing EAGC marketing materials - documents highlighting:
 - the EAGC's policy interventions/successes,
 - RATIN & RTVT highlights and successes
 - STS programs, highlights and successes
- ii) Approval of STS Handbook and initiate the process of publication.
- iii) Finalize the simplified storage manual.
- iv) Initiate the development of trainer's guide for STS hand book.
- v) Support COMPETE in the development of training and awareness/ promotional materials on standards
- vi) Quarterly NFBS meetings in Rwanda and Burundi to validate quarterly balance sheet.

6. Major issues during project implementation and suggestions to overcome these issues:

- The content delivered to the participants during the warehouse operations trainings was

compressed. There was a general feeling that going forward, it is best to do the courses topic-wise. This will allow the learners to get comprehensive knowledge while at the same time not be overload.

- The trained warehouse operators had a chance to see various processes first hand at the grain storage facilities. However, they did not have a chance to look at all equipment required for sampling and grading. There is need to organize for these in future trainings on grading.
- Internet connectivity slowing down operation of the SMS facility in Tanzania.
- The RTVT has elicited lots of interest from warehouse operators. There is need to scale-up and reach more warehouses.

7. Status of the Implementation of Activities to Date:





Project Activities	Expected Deliverables	Due Date	Achievements to date	Comments
Activity # 1.0 EAGC Institutional Strengthening				
Support COMPETE-hired consultant to develop EAGC stakeholder engagement & membership development strategy	• Completed EAGC stakeholder engagement and membership development strategy	Jan-Mar 2013	• The strategy has not been developed however, a consultant-Joan Perrin was engaged by COMPETE to study EAGC relationship with stakeholders particularly its members. She met EAGC board of directors and members. She submitted her reports on her engagement.	EAGC and COMPETE expected to hold a meeting to discuss this activity.
	• Membership development tracker to facilitate monitoring new members and member retention	Jan-Mar 2013	• A membership spreadsheet was developed showing new, active and inactive members.	N/A
Design and produce EAGC marketing materials to capture success and strengths and present EAGC value proposition to members and potential EAGC Members.	• Create a document that captures the "Top 5 reasons to join EAGC"	March-May 2013	• A draft document with "Top 5 reasons to join EAGC" and it's annexed to this report.	N/A
	• Create a document highlighting the EAGC's policy interventions/successes	March-May 2013	• This activity has been scheduled for April 2013	N/A
	• Create EAGC RATIN promotional document	March-May 2013	• This activity has been scheduled for April 2013	N/A
	• Create an RTVT promotional document	March-May 2013	• This activity has been scheduled for April 2013	N/A


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a documenting EAGC's STS programs, highlights and successes 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity has been scheduled for April 2013 	N/A
Activity # 2.0 Strengthening of Structured Trading Systems				
Finalize the revision of the Second Edition of the EAGC STS Handbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final document approved by COMPETE, EAGC and other partners before printing 	Feb.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Muddy - the Editor, has been working with authors to review all the chapters in the book. Final corrections and edits have been submitted to the editor. 	The editing of the book took longer than expected.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250-500 copies of approved STS Handbook printed 	Feb.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft for publication will be circulated to all partners for approval. This is expected in early April. 	Printing awaiting finalization and approval of the book
Revise the STS Handbook to include participant testing material to ensure quality control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing materials developed for each training module 	Jan-Feb 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity is pending. It was proposed that a trainer's guide be developed and not testing materials alone. This will commence in the month of April/May after publication of STS Handbook 	Awaited the finalization of the handbook
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250-500 copies of STS Testing Guide printed 	Jan-Feb 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending 	See above
Conduct two trainings (one in each country) for warehouse operators and graders in Uganda and Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete development of simplified storage and warehouse operators guide book 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A draft Simplified Storage Guide was developed by COMPETE in collaboration with EAGC 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 copied of Simplified Warehouse operators guide book printed 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a roster of skilled trainers in each country to support the training effort and lists of in-country trainers and target participants 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Names of potential trainers identified by EAGC and COMPETE 2 local trainers used in Uganda. External trainer used in Tanzania due to lack of available local trainers with the capabilities/skill sets required. 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 25 	March-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 operators and grain trained Tanzania from 12th-15th 	N/A

	participants trained in each country	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2013 in Dar es Salaam 25 operators trained in Uganda from 19th-22nd February 2013 in Jinja 	
Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.				
Attend the regional EAC standards workshop scheduled for October in Entebbe and the meeting of the East African Standards Committee and Sectoral Council of Ministers scheduled for November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on the Private Sector's position on harmonized standards during the EAC Standards workshop in Entebbe. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Director and STS Manager attended the two meetings in Entebbe in Uganda on 30th Oct. To 2nd Nov.2012 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit the position paper on for the private sector on Moisture Content to the East Africa Standards Committee in Entebbe. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGC presented a paper on the recommended Moisture Content levels for Grains, a paper that unlocked the earlier contested moisture levels 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver private sector opening remarks at the EAS Committee meeting and Sectoral Council of Ministers in November 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening remarks done by Gerald Masila on 30th Oct.2012 during the EAS Committee meeting 	N/A
Support COMPETE in the development of training and awareness/promotional materials on standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a list of local technical advisors willing to participate in the development of awareness materials 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This activity is ongoing. The communication material/posters on standards have been developed and are currently being reviewed by EAGC. EAC Grading Guide is being developed by COMPETE. It will be reviewed by EAGC once a draft is availed 	
Attend meetings to develop materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop country-specific lists of potential participants 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be developed once the communication materials and EAC grading guide are ready to be subjected to stakeholders for validation. 	
Organize and conduct three trainings in Uganda, Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct trainings for at least 90 private-sector 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trainings have been slated for May/June 2013 pending the development of grading manual 	N/A

and Tanzania	graders representing producers, traders and processors trained in the EAC standards		and awareness materials.	
Provide country-level support to COMPETE to identify potential national implementing partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact lists for potential partners submitted to COMPETE. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KE, TZ, UG and RWD lists of potential participants were submitted on March 17th 2013 	N/A
Participate in COMPETE-organized cross-border trade forums at Malaba, Busia, Isebania, Namanga and Oloitokitok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate private sector (traders) participation. 	Feb-Mar 2013	The forums were scheduled for June 2013	Pending the finalization of grading manual and awareness materials
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit target/attendance lists to COMPETE. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in five cross-border trade forums and present EAGC services 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending 	
Activity # 3.0: Strengthening of Generation, Dissemination and Coordination of Market Intelligence				
Expand the RATIN Network in Eastern Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RATIN upgraded to enable consolidate maps to be uploaded. 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT consultant was engaged to review and consider adjustment to enable maps consolidation and uploads to RATIN. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GIS data for storage facilities in East Africa provided by USAID COMPETE and CARANA Corporation harmonized 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The maps were consolidated and uploaded on RATIN www.ratin.net/index.php/warehouses/grain-storage-facilities-in-east-africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data verification and validation of more than 700 locations across East Africa is completed and GIS mapping datasheets to fill the gaps reviewed. 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data verification and validation was done duplicate and misplaced maps was done. The storage facilities on the map cover: Kenya (185), Uganda (73), Tanzania (81), Malawi (310), Rwanda (51), Burundi (7) and The Democratic Republic of Congo-DRC (1). 	N/A
EAGC leads the registration/training of private sector contributors to National FBS, coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly /quarterly				

EAGC will work with COMPETE to identify, register and train new private sector RFBS contributors in the 5 EAC countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain a country-level tracker that shows all potential and existing private sector contributors and the status of their engagement 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial Tracker developed and submitted to COMPETE. Continued registration and training of new data contributors has been taking place and reported accordingly. 	Data upload has been intermittent but challenges are being addressed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide monthly country reports showing status of targets and contributors 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports submitted to COMPETE 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly follow-up with all registered contributors to ensure consistent data uploading 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been done though it is being hampered by changes in contact personnel at some of the contributing firms necessitating constant training. 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Private Sector Data on the regional food balance sheet submitted and presented in Arusha 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending 	There were change of dates by EAC.
EAGC country offices organize, facilitate and provide secretarial services for two quarterly National Food Balance Sheet Committee meetings in the 5 EAC countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2013 NFBS meetings held in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi to validate quarterly balance sheet. Meeting report with data summaries submitted to COMPETE. 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings for all the countries held and reports submitted except for Kenya where stakeholders expressed ambivalence arising out of the electioneering period. Kenya's validation workshop is now slated for the week of 7th-12th April 2013. Meanwhile engagement with stakeholders for data submission is ongoing. 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2013 NFBS meetings in Kenya Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi to validate quarterly balance sheet. Meeting report with data summaries submitted to COMPETE. 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second round of meetings was held for Tanzania and Uganda and reports submitted accordingly. The meetings for Rwanda and Burundi to be held back to back on 18th and 20th April as per request from the stakeholders. 	N/A
Finalize the roll out of Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking System and link to RATIN to support EAGC Members in				

relevant and credible Market Intelligence.				
RTVT rolled out to 12 warehouses/storage facilities, operators equipped with smart phones and trained in use of the application and uploaded to RATIN and pushed out to users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize warehouse/storage facility evaluation form 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Stores Evaluation form was finalized and shared with COMPETE before use for evaluation;  Microsoft Office Word 97 - 2003 Docu	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final RTVT enrolment form completed 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Stores Operators Enrolment form was completed and shared with COMPETE before use for evaluation;  RTVT ENROLMENT FORM.doc	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tracker for potential and participating warehouses 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tracker was developed as agreed;  EAGC RTVT TRACKER.xls	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracker updated monthly and submitted with monthly grant report` 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exercise is continuous exercise with the updated Tracker in the icon below;  RTVT TRACKER.xls	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT introductory letter sent to all target warehouses 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT Users Manual for use by Warehouse Operators 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The User Manual was a deliverable by the IT consultant; Pending 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT application and RATIN interface finalized and develop RTVT user manual-Dec 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliverable by IT Consultant; Pending 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country staff evaluate target warehouses and enrol successful facilities 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exercise was combined with the mapping and set up of RTVT stores; in progress with the KE & TZ having met the target. 	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equip and train 12 	Dec.12-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The exercise completed with 4 	N/A

	warehouses/storage facilities and monitor uploaded data	Jun.2013	smart phones issued in Kenya and 4 smart phones issued in Tanzania warehouses. 10 remaining phones were allocated to Uganda.	
Improve EAGC Market Analysis, Capabilities , develop systems /templates for weekly reports for EAGC Members	• Finalize weekly market analysis report template	Nov.12	• A draft template was developed and currently under internal review. The templates agreed on earlier by COMPETE and EAGC is still in use.	N/A
	• Finalize weekly report development process document that details the steps for country office submissions	Nov.12	• This is awaiting the completion of report template	N/A
Maintain 15 market and border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIN	• Submit list of 15 highest priority markets (to include border markets in the region –Oct	Oct.12-Jun.2013	• List submitted and also provided in the icon;  EAGC PRIORITY MARKETS & BORDER	N/A
	• Hire, train and equip 7 additional market monitors (to complement the 8 existing monitors)- Nov-Dec	Oct.12-Jun.2013	• The additional 6 market monitors hired; 2 in KE, 1 in RW, 2 in TZ and 1 in UG.	1 more monitor need to be hired in Rwanda.
	• Country staff provide spot checks/ supervision and reports on data quality	Oct.12-Jun.2013	• Continuous exercise; ongoing.	N/A